time of taking the vinegar, which was about eleven o'clock at night, not even of her having gone to bed, which she was the last in the house to do. About one o'clock, the inmates were all awakened by her shrieking for cold water, of which she had drunk an enormous quantity, before I was called to see her. There was not any pain, heat, or constriction of the throat and fauces, but there were slight efforts to vomit. Having procured some sulphate of zinc, I gave her two scruples in a cup of water, which soon produced full vomiting, with great straining. I had then to leave her, but ordered full and repeated doses of carbonate of magnesia, till I could see her again, which I did about six hours after, and found her much relieved, and only complaining of headache, which left her after the operation of a dose of castor oil. Two days after, she was taken ill with a slight attack of continued fever, but is doing well.

Dr. David will find, that Taylor, in the last edition of his *Manual of Medical Jurisprudence*, quotes the case of Orfila, in which a female lost her life by taking strong vinegar.—*British American Journal of Medical Science*, September, 1847.
T. R. B.

85. *A New Method of distinguishing between Arsenical and Antimonial Spots.*—M. Cottereau, jun., proposes the following: Let the spots, obtained on porcelain capsules, be exposed to the vapour of phosphorus, and for this, place small fragments of the phosphorus on a flat surface, and hold over it the capsule bearing the spots. The process is accomplished at the ordinary temperature. All the arsenical spots disappear in the course of a few hours, while those of antimony resist the effect for a period longer than even fifteen days. Finally, however, they disappear at least in part; and if, at the end of this time, the capsules be held over a cup containing sulphuretted hydrogen in solution, the emanations from that gas will reproduce the spots; those of the arsenic being in the state of its yellow sulphuret, and those of antimony, of its red sulphuret. All these spots present precisely the form they originally had.—*Encyclographie*, from *Gazette Médicale de Paris*, 1846.
T. R. B.

86. *Poisoning by Strychnine.*—The following case by Dr. Theinhart, presents a remarkable example of the characteristic symptoms of this poison.

A student of pharmacy, of intemperate habits, on returning from a ball, where he had danced much and drank much, went to bed, and immediately afterwards swallowed a certain quantity of strychine. On the arrival of Dr. Theinhart, in about quarter of an hour after he had swallowed the poison, he confessed that he had taken nearly two grammes (thirty grains) of strychnine, dissolved in alcohol.

He was lying tranquil in bed, with a natural skin and pulse, and indeed his appearance was such, that Dr. T. refused to believe that the poison had been taken, although this was repeatedly asserted by the patient. Meanwhile, convulsive motions commenced over the whole system, the respiration was quickened, and the convulsions were succeeded by stiffness of the whole body. An emetic was given to check this, but without effect. At the end of a few minutes, a more violent general spasm came on, followed by a third and a fourth one, during which the patient uttered horrible cries. In half an hour, he was dead.

The tongue, gums and lips were violet coloured. So also were the fingers and toes. The first were convulsively retracted, and the last drawn in. The whole body was as rigid as a stick of wood, and slightly bent on itself.

During the slight intervals of consciousness, no satisfactory account could be obtained as to his sensations in the seat of the pain, which nevertheless was evidently felt in the region of the stomach. The neighbours heard loud cries before the arrival of the physician.—*Ibid.* from the *Gazette Médicale.*
T. R. B.

87. *Joanna Southcott.*—I copy from a magazine, published in 1815, the following certificate of the examination of the body of this female, who had numerous followers in her day in England, and who, for a long time, declared herself pregnant of a child that was to be the *Saviour of the world.* Her deluded disciples did not abandon the belief until death took her from them.

"We, the undersigned, present at the dissection of Mrs. Joanna Southcott, do certify that no unnatural appearances were visible, and no part exhibiting any visible appearance of disease, sufficient to have occasioned her death; that a number of gallstones were found in the gall-bladder, and the intestines were unusually distended with flatus, and no appearance of her having been pregnant. The uterus was not distended, enlarged, or diseased, but on the contrary rather smaller than the usual size."

Signed by Dr. Reece, Dr. Sims, Dr. Adams, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Want, Mr. Cooke, Mr. Stanhope, Mr. Caton, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Darling, Mr. Forster, Mr. Whetherall, Mr. Stanton, Mr. Wagstaffe, Mr. Wilkinson. T. R. B.

88. *Latest Case of Supposed Spontaneous Combustion.*—The *Gazette Médicale* relates the following facts in a recent number. On the 6th of January last, the body of a man was found lying in bed, and in a state of combustion, by some persons who entered his bed-room in the morning. The chamber was filled with a dense smoke, and one of the witnesses asserted, that he saw playing around the body of the deceased, a small whitish flame, which receded from him as he approached. The clothes of the deceased, and the coverings of the bed were almost entirely consumed, but the wood was only partially burnt. There were no ashes, and only a small quantity of vegetable charcoal; there was, however, a kind of mixed residue, altered by fire, and some pieces of animal charcoal, which had evidently been derived from the articulations. The deceased was in the habit of carrying lucifer matches in his waistcoat pocket, and according to his usual practice, he had had a hot brick placed at his feet when he went to bed the preceding evening. Two hours after, his son and daughter-in-law passed by the door of his room, but there was nothing which attracted their attention. It was only the following morning early, that his grandson found his body in the state described. The deceased was seventy-one years of age. He was not fat, nor was he addicted to drunkenness. The temperature of the air was low, and there were no indications of electricity. The son and his wife were suspected of having murdered the deceased, and burnt the body in order to conceal the traces of the crime; and a Dr. Masson was commissioned to investigate the case. The body, which had been buried, was exhumed and examined. The cravat, partially burnt, was still around the neck, and part of a sleeve of the night shirt was found. The hands, completely burnt, were only attached to the forearms by some carbonized tendons, which gave way on the slightest touch. The thighs were completely detached, so as to resemble a wilful mutilation, but for the discovery of animal charcoal about them. From the facts, Dr. Masson (considering it impossible to ascribe these changes to the effects of accidental burning, and that, under common circumstances, they could only be produced by a violent combustion continuing for some time), drew the inference that the burning must have resulted from some inherent cause in the individual, probably roused into activity by the hot brick placed at the feet of the deceased. The burning once commenced, would be easily supported by the state of the tissues. Hence, the case was, in his opinion, to be referred to the class of spontaneous combustion. It is said that Orfila coincided with Masson in this opinion, and that the accused were acquitted.—*Atlas*, (London Newspaper,) Sept. 25th, 1847. T. R. B.

89. *Test for Arseniates.* By R. D. Thompson, M. D.—I may notice a simple and quick method of testing minerals containing arsenic in its various forms, phosphates, molybdates, vanadiates, &c. A few grains of the mineral to be examined are to be finely pulverized in an agate mortar, and introduced into a test tube, and boiled with bisulphohydret of ammonia for a few minutes. The mineral is partially decomposed; the sulphate of lead precipitates, while sulphate of arsenic, &c., is dissolved by the excess of the reagent. The tube is then allowed to stand at rest, and the supernatant liquor poured off or filtered. The excess of bisulphohydret of ammonia being removed by evaporation, the yellow sulphuret of arsenic precipitates. A molydate is detected at once, by the fine orange-red colour, which the reagent assumes when it is heated in contact with that mineral.

A vanadiate gives a dark colour, but possessing less of the red shade than the molybdate. The liquor filtered from the sulphuret of lead containing the vanadium in solution, has a green colour, becoming blue by the addition of hydrochloric acid.